



St. Petersburg Police Department News Release



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For Immediate Release

February 22, 2011

Updated Information and Video Release: St. Petersburg Police Officer Killed in the Line of Duty

Brief Biographical Information:

Officer David S. Crawford, 46, began his career with the St. Petersburg Police Department on July 13, 1985. During his tenure with the Department he served in the Patrol Division where he spent much of his career working on the midnight shift. He was assigned to District II (downtown/north side) on the midnight shift when he was shot and killed in the line of duty. David has several letters of commendation in his file for excellent police work and compassion for the citizens he served. He is survived by his wife, Donna, and daughter, Amanda.

Updated Description of the Suspect:

The suspect is a black male, late teens or early twenties, 5'9" to 5'11" tall, slender build, wearing a dark-colored hoodie jacket, dark-colored shorts slightly below the knees, white socks and size 10 black/white Nike flip-flops.

On the police website, we have attached a video taken from The Urban Flats, 327 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Street South on Monday February 21, 2011 at 8:59 p.m. (roughly an hour and a half prior to the shooting death of Officer Crawford). We believe the individual in this 20 second video may be the suspect in this case, based on the individual's physical description, clothing, location and time of day.

Chief Harmon presented photographs of the Nike flip flops at the press conference today.

Tip Center:

We have established a Tip Center in police headquarters at the St. Petersburg Police Department. The Tip Center will remain open and staffed around the clock until further notice in order to process all tips regarding this case.

We remind everyone to use the 893-7780 telephone number to report any information about the whereabouts of the suspect or to provide any other information about this case.

Perimeter Search:

The officers on the scene have completed the grid searches of the areas near the shooting scene and traffic has resumed normal operations. Officers are now going door to door in the neighborhoods, and in the downtown area, distributing a handbill with information about this case.



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Reward:

This information changes hourly, it seems, as various sources step forward to provide rewards leading to the arrest of the suspect. The total amount at this time, including the \$50,000 from the FBI, is now \$100,000.

Memorial:

We have established an area in the police lobby (1300 First Avenue North) as a public memorial for Officer David S. Crawford. The memorial for Sergeant Thomas Baitinger and K-9 Officer Jeffrey Yaslowitz is also in the lobby.

Finally:

Chief of Police Charles "Chuck" Harmon would like to again express his "appreciation for the incredible outpouring of support from the community during this difficult time for our police family." Chief Harmon emphasizes the need for anyone in the community with information about the suspect or this case "to step up and help us bring the suspect to justice."

Information by Bill Proffitt on February 22, 2011 at 4:15 p.m.
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